What is the NCPDP?

The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) is a non-profit organization that develops and promotes healthcare industry standards in the drug supply chain that improves patient safety and health outcomes. The NCPDP has been trusted to create industry standards for almost 40 years. It has ten workgroups comprised of diverse healthcare stakeholders responsible for creating NCPDP’s standards for data collection. These standards are used to streamline the healthcare system electronically.

What does it do?

Create Real-Time Benefit Standards

- The NCPDP is an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited Standards Developing Organization (SDO).
- It creates national standards for real-time electronic prescription communication.
- It facilitates real-time information exchange for prescribing, dispensing, monitoring, managing, and payments.

Create Drug Product Standards

- The NCPDP develops standards for product labeling, dosing instructions, and patient communication in order to minimize patient dosing errors.
- It standardizes the use of device identifiers (DI), which is used to identify the labeler and the specific model of a medical device.

Create Fraud, Waste, & Abuse (FWA) Mitigation Tools

- The NCPDP provides tools for its members to have accurate data and mitigate FWA.
- These tools include pharmacy credentialing resources, up-to-date pharmacy information database, and claims processing resources.

Collect Pharmacy Data

- The NCPDP collects pharmacy count data that is widely regarded as the gold standard for pharmacy data.
- NCPDP pharmacy count data is updated daily based on activity from a unique identifier assigned to every licensed pharmacy.

PCMA uses NCPDP data for our pharmacy data count research.